

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 15, 2018

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and  
Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2007 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and  
Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2019 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to include language that would delist the Mexican gray wolf upon determination by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) that the Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupus Baileyi*) is not a genetically valid subspecies.

The federal program for recovery of the Mexican gray wolf under the Endangered Species Act, dating back to the 1970s, has had devastating impacts on farmers, ranchers, and families in the West while demonstrating only repeated failure by employing a flawed, overbroad and heavy handed approach. FWS has failed to protect the species while demonstrating poor judgment in expanding the range of the species to unjustifiable geographic stretches.

In December 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service confirmed that the agency was initiating new recovery plans for the Mexican wolf and considering introducing the species into areas outside its historic range. While that misguided proposal was abandoned, the Final Plan released by the Fish and Wildlife Service on November 29, 2017 lists population target goals which severely overweight Mexican wolf presence in the United States relative to Mexico, increasing the total needed for delisting to 320 wolves in the U.S. and 200 in Mexico.

This manner of range expansion sets poor precedent for what FWS may choose to do with other species' ranges while lowering expectations that FWS is serious about recovery, given that it intends to perform recovery in areas that are largely untested areas for the species from an ecological standpoint.

This ballooning of the target levels for Mexican wolves in the United States is devastatingly misguided, as 90% of the wolf's historic range is in Mexico. Planning the recovery of a single species within a habitat in which it has no historical presence sets a dangerous precedent for future recovery efforts.

The Final Plan also utilizes a map from the 1996 Environmental Impact Statement which only outlines the historical range within the United States, and despite requiring a minimum population in Mexico.

**The Plan results in the United States being hamstrung on the efforts of the Mexican Government to recover its own wolf population, even if the United States has met its absurdly high target levels, in a stunning usurpation of national sovereignty by FWS.**

Page 15 of the House FY 2018 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Committee Report stated, "The service is directed to, within 60 days of enactment of this Act, review and determine whether Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupus Baileyi*) is a genetically valid subspecies designation and whether the red wolf (*Canis rufus*) is a genetically valid species designation. The Service shall complete its work and publish a report to Congress not later than one year from the date of enactment of this Act."

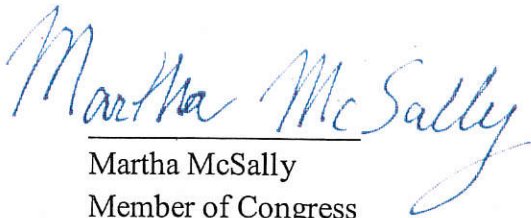
Accordingly, we ask that you include language similar to the following in the base bill of FY 2019 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Committee Act:


#### MEXICAN GRAY WOLF

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. *Upon a determination by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service that the Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupus Baileyi*) is not a genetically valid subspecies, the Secretary of the Interior shall issue a rule to remove the Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupus Baileyi*) from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife in section 17.11 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, without regard to any other provision of statute or regulation that applies to issuance of such rule. Such issuance (including this section) shall not be subject to judicial review.*


We thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership on the committee.


Sincerely,


  
Martha McSally  
Member of Congress


  
Stevan Pearce  
Member of Congress

  
Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress

  
Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

  
Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress

  
Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress

  
Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress

  
Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress